

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

Applicants herein acknowledge the restriction requirement in the above-referenced application. Claims 1-67 are currently pending in the application. The Office has identified the following groups of claims as being drawn to separate inventions:

Group I – Claims 1-9, drawn to an etch solution, classified in Class 252, Subclass 79.1+; and

Group II – Claims 10-67, drawn to a method, classified in Class 438, Subclass 689+.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group II, claims 10-67, without traverse.

Election Of Species Requirement

Applicants herein acknowledge the election of species requirement in the above-referenced application. The Examiner has identified three patentably distinct species of the claimed invention of Group II: an embodiment of FIGs. 1-6, an embodiment of FIGs. 8-9, and an embodiment of FIGs. 10-12.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute the species of invention as set forth in claims 10-28 and 45-66, illustrated in the embodiment of drawing FIGs. 1-6. Claims 10-28 and 45-66 read thereon.

Applicants consider claim 10 to be generic and claim 55 to be generic at least with respect to the embodiments of FIGS. 1-6 and 10-12, and note that upon the allowance of a generic claim, any nonelected claims depending therefrom will be allowable.

Please Note Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 19, 2004, and respectfully request that the documents or other information referenced therein be made of record in the present application and that an initialed

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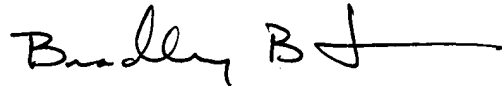
copy of the PTO-1449 form be returned to the undersigned attorney with the first Office Action on the merits.

Should any of the documents, or portions thereof, be unavailable to the Examiner for any reason, please contact the undersigned attorney, who will supply same immediately by facsimile or other suitable method of delivery.

CONCLUSION

An early Office Action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley B. Jensen", followed by a horizontal line.

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